



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OREGON MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING 39 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Portland, Ore., man was sentenced in federal court today for possession with intent to distribute a large quantity of cocaine.

Margarito Guerrero, 36, of Portland, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to seven years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On April 22, 2004, **Guerrero** pleaded guilty to the charge contained in a Feb. 25, 2004, federal indictment. He admitted that he was in possession with intent to distribute 39 kilograms of cocaine on March 4, 2003.

Guerrero was arrested on March 4, 2003, when the tractor/trailer he was driving from California was stopped at a weigh station near Strafford, Mo. Law enforcement officers discovered 39 heavily taped and wrapped packages, each containing approximately one kilogram of cocaine, inside two large duffle bags laying on the floor beneath the bed in the sleeping berth area.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow